

NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE

Notes from EMERGENCY MEETING - KALANG HALL 8/1/95

20/12

[A] REPORTS

[1] HCV and Faulkner's Advice

Dailan gave a rundown of how information was gathered for the NE high conservation value (HCV) forest Rapid Assessment Report and the consequent results. Dailan has copies of the final report which was forwarded to Faulkner's office so interested people may like to contact either him or an environment centre for a look. A potted account follows:

Orders of works were collected from 1200 odd compartments. Of the 912 that were assessed for HCV: 22% had old growth forest (OGF), 27% had rare/threatened species... 18 compartments were within identified wilderness areas, and 122 compartments were world heritage value.

The report forwarded to Faulkner by NE environmentalists identified a conservative 328 out of the 912 as HCV. The Fed Govt identified 495 compartments of the 912 - a considerable increase!! A total of 1295 compartments around Australia were identified as HCV by Faulkner's office. Beddall protected 31?

Beddall's claim that the information from Faulkner's office was too late for him to make a decision was quite simply a load of bollocks. In fact Beddall still had 10 days before licences were due to be issued when he wrote and complained that it was late.

[2] Beddall's decision

Beddall increased both the volume and number of licenses. He added new licenses in Vic and Tasmania, as well as QLD. None of these licenses had gone through correct approval or assessment processes.

Beddall also foreshadowed approving export woodchipping from Newcastle until at least the year 2000.

[3] Keating and Federal Government Fall Out

Keating announced he would 'fix' the furore created by Beddall's decision. In fact he made a very piss weak decision to offer a phase out of export woodchipping by 20% each year starting in 1996. His statement (copies available with regional coordinators and most environment centres) was very ambiguous. It is currently being interpreted as an offer of quicker phase outs of logging in areas where no Regional Forest Agreements assessments have been agreed, and a slower (or no) phase out in areas where RFAs have already been done.

45 MPs (out of 88) wrote to Keating before Beddall's decision demanding urgent action from the PM over the issue. Tasmanian Senator John Devereux resigned after Beddall's decision was announced fuelling the Labor split. A motion has been moved for the 1st ALP Caucus meeting of 1995 instructing the Commonwealth Government to use all its powers to protect the 1300 HCV forests identified by Sen Faulkner. Basically there is a massive split happening in the ALP, which is not along factional lines.

[4] NSW Govt Fall Out

Carr held a meeting on 27/12/1994 with Sydney based peak conservation groups to try and control damage to State ALP but turned this into a media event. Carr offered a promise to protect an extra 35,000 ha in SE NSW - an age old promise. ALP forest policy @ that date was to let State Forests decide what they want to do with forests. Dailan wrote to Carr telling him this was utterly unacceptable to NEFA and the National policy was better! Carr called 2nd meeting for 3/1/1995 which scrapped previous policy and asked for input. Conservation groups have put forward a 10 point demand list for the NSW Govt and are waiting for a response from Carr.

[5] Court Actions

NCEC (North Coast Environment Council Inc.) is taking the Beddall to the Federal Court over the 15 month licence issued to BORAL subsidiary Sawmillers Exports P/L in October 1994. NCEC hopes to challenge the administrative, legal and scientific bases of the SEP/L licence. Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc. is well progressed into similar court actions. Vic, WA & QLD conservation groups are now also considering legal recourse. NCEC Inc is considering a further challenge to the new Brisbane based licence which will obtain 70,000 tonnes of woodchips pa from NE NSW.

Stop Press! Tas Con Trust WINS! in Federal Court! The 1994 licence was set aside. Beddall proven to have failed to operate lawfully!!!

[6] Elections

Direct action strategy vital. Must keep issues high on the agenda and push hard before the NSW state election in March. The Greens NSW are poised to capitalise on anti-ALP sentiment in both upper and lower houses.

[7] Old Growth Forests

It appears that logging operations continue to follow the practice of going into OGF first, then into regrowth forests. There has been a dramatic increase in the rate of logging of OGF - and this will continue to happen throughout NSW. By 2000 there will be very little of our precious OGFs left. It is thus essential to get some commitments from the ALP and the current State Govt before the next election to save all OGF. The next two months prior to the election are crucial to achieve that.

[B] DISCUSSION & DECISIONS

[1] BROAD STRATEGY for whole of North East. * unite under NE wide campaign "Forest MUST survive 95!" with liberty for bio-regional teams of Forest Defenders to use wide range of other themes, such as 'Green at Heart', slogans etc as appropriate;

* use the minimum energy for maximum effect;

* renewed commitment to 'non violent' direct action

* use of a broad range of protest tactics, right across spectrum, from the forests to the towns and cities; involving people of all ages, with different levels of mobility and availability; non-confrontational actions to be included;

* draw on people from the major cities to swell numbers, which will require training and orientation;

* co-operate with NSW forest groups and other Australian forest & environment groups;

* use the opportunity of the NSW state election to push for better forest conservation and timber industry transition policies, particularly Bob Carr and NSW ALP marginal NC candidates Bruce Clarke (Coffs) & John Lester (Clarence);

* devolve forest defence and protest tactics decisions to 4 bio-regional teams of Forest Defenders (Northern Rivers, Coffs/Urunga/Kempsey, Wauchope/Wingham/Elands, Hunter/Barrington);

* cross bio-regional co-ordination to be achieved via regular telephone link-ups to be paid for from NEFA bank a/c over next 2 months: to be organised from Big Scrub by Johnno. First to be MONDAY 16th, 2pm. (Please get phone nos and names to Johnno ASAP!)

* review actual Order of Works to discover what is next proposed for 'works': ask District Forester for confirmation, + double-check via review of Order of Works approved by RAPIC (Regulation and Public Information Committee - under TIIP Act) Gus to obtain from Sydney a.s.a.p. and refer to Bio-regional co-ordinators;

* ditto review of NPWS 'licenses to kill' approvals for each bioregion;

* link fundraising in cities with public education, recruitment to Bio-regional Forest Defenders teams

* present media image which appeals to the mainstream and which does not alienate potential or actual supporters

[2] FUNDRAISING

The following were agreed as NEFA as a whole fundraising activities:

1. special team with display for city use (Christina & Gus)
2. big gig? festival? in Lismore general area (Johnno)
3. merchandising of green hearts etc; (Clarence/ Mick & Darryl)
4. Student groups (Dave Burgess)
5. Sydney public meeting kitchen (Luke and Jarra)
6. Stump truck - proportion of profits to NEFA (Jenny Sheed)
7. Raffle (Johnno) - people to chase prizes

Ideas for Bio-regional Forest Defenders fundraising:

local appeal for donations (this IS an emergency), buckets on streets @ rallies, market stalls, Chaelundi forest festival!?, form NEFA student groups\$ @ local unis; the usual scams and tricks (ahem!)

[3] BIO-REGIONAL TEAMS OF FOREST DEFENDERS

The following are recommendations for what each Bio-Regional teams are likely to need: (P = dedicated person)

- * immediate scouting (PP)
- * list and maps of HCV forests in area
- * relevant extracts from NE HCV report
- * immediate regional meeting within 2 weeks
- * internal phone linkups and linkups across other bio-regions
- * local and regional radio communications networks
- * media spokespeople (PP)
- * police/ security liaison (PP)
- * land council liaison (P)
- * new volunteers contact and training co-ordination (P)
- * blockade gear/ equipment (P)
- * fact sheets for each area at risk
- * videos/ cameras (P)
- * mobile phones
- * 'wildcat' action defence sites
- * dig- in/ hang on sites
- * friendly soft action sites
- * 24 hour fax machine
- * details on job/ economic argument
- * phone tree
- * calendar of actions

[4] OBJECTIVES FOR BLOCKADES

- * call them 'actions'
 - * stop/ prevent logging, roading etc
 - * stretch police resources to prevent mass police focus on any one area
 - * develop and deepen the sense of a pre-election atmosphere of crisis
 - * train new people
 - * give 'hard' edge to broad campaign which will include non-confrontational 'soft' actions
 - * maintain the public rage at the woodchip decision
 - * prolong / develop media interest
 - * have fun
 - * maintain connection to actual OG forests
 - * build solidarity & trust & network
- +

[5] Ideas for TACTICS to be considered in each Bio-region

- * wild cat actions at hot spots
- * Chaelundi dig in
- * media to go in with blockaders
- * firefighters wear uniforms
- * street theatre satires
- * tours, petitions for tourists
- * kids competition re: OGF
- * scouting then bio-regional meetings
- * stump truck returns - &/or use other huge stumps
- * other targets outside SFs - BORAL shareholders (AMP, NRMA offices) FC offices, NPWS offices, chippers, export facilities etc
- * frustrate operations where possible through licencing processes
- * mobilise public - concerts ?John Williamson/ Oils?
- * staff Forest Embassy - Canberra/ Sydney
- * target BORAL offices 'all on one day'
- * Sunday actions a prelude to non-existent actions on, say, a Tuesday = ~~END MEETINGS~~
- * expose propaganda on jobs, \$ etc
- * use large obstacles, cars etc on access roads
- * mountain of woodchips - Beddall's front yard? electoral office?
- * peaceful demonstrations in the cities: tone down, dress up
- * wear a colour on a day - green heart'
- * black armband - "we're in mourning"
- * billboard graffiti on BORAL signs - Highway
- * Tamworth C & W festival and other actions "out west"
- * assert that future forests are being lost
- * community service advs
- * use Environment centres
- * surprise/ secrecy
- * use letters to editor/ talk back radio
- * Newcastle chip facility
- * hand out woodchips to public
- * Pennant Hills re-visited
- * explore Christian angles

[6] OUR MEDIA METHODS

- * 3 people to OK press releases (2 in bioregion & 1 outside bioregion) via fax
- * bioregional teams to be NEFA local spokespeople
- * get new updated media fax nos list
- * media releases to go out to local media in bioregion & Sydney to avoid duplication and overlap

[7] THEIR TACTICS & OUR RESPONSES

- * allege terrorism - we affirm democratic right to nonviolent protest
- * disinformation - refer to fact sheets & HCV report
- * marginalise - seek broad support
- * jobs/ economics - research answers and facts on restructuring & transition proposals statewide and regional - to Dailan for write-up as leaflet &/or NEFA Leaf article

[8] MOBILISE UNI STUDENTS

- * Rod Pye - Sydney uni contact (02) 487 1934, 8 Cooper St, Wahroonga 2076
- * Check NEFA LEAF mail addresses
- * Information and fundraising team at O-weekS at unis
- * USC (Lismore) - Dee
- * UNE - via WFA
- * Macquarie - Gus
- * UTS - via Carrie

[9] AGREEMENTS

***this is an emergency!!**

- * non-violence - no damage to people or property
- * consult, respect & work with koori people to protect important forest areas
- * network relevant media angles to other bio-regions
- * issue media releases in line with approval procedure (3 to see & ok)
- * co-ordinate activities and share info via phone linkups
- * action decisions to be made in bio-region
- * appeal to mainstream
- * co-operate in state, national actions (Faulkner encouraged protests)
- * request small millers in industry to speak out about impact of woodchipping
- * slogan adopted: FORESTS MUST SURVIVE 95

[10] RADIO

- * we need single side band 27, & HF 477 radios
- * local networks using CBs to be set up by bioregional teams
- * Johnno will organise HF region link up radio network (066) 213 123

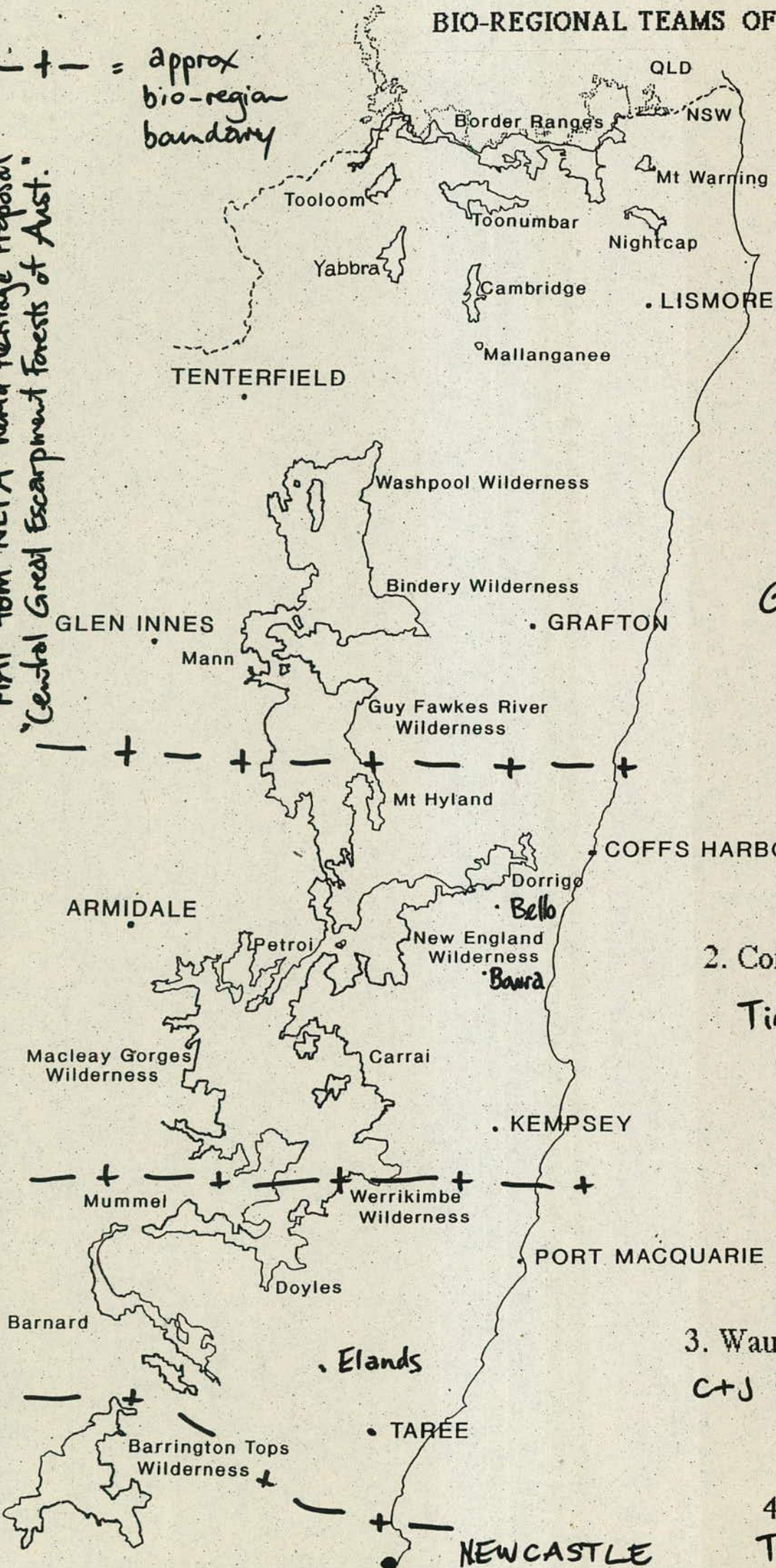
[11] Embassy

- * Gus to find out about ongoing Forest Embassy in Canberra
- * refer NSW Embassy idea to State/ National meeting

BIO-REGIONAL TEAMS OF FOREST DEFENDERS

MAP from NEFA World Heritage Proposal
"Central Great Escarpment Forests of Aust."

- + - = approx
bio-region
bandary



1. Northern Rivers

Georgia 066 333108
333292

2. Coffs/Urunga/Kempsey

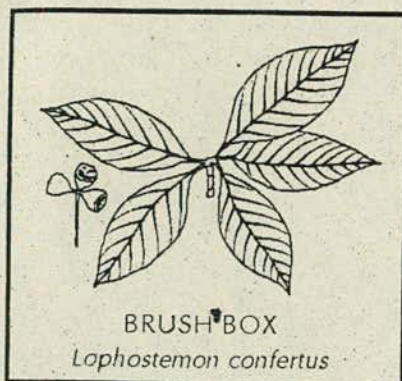
Tim 066 550027
551783 fx
018 672 044

3. Wauchope/Wingham/Elands

C+J Sheed 065 504572

4. Hunter/Barrington

Toosie 049 294395



N.E.F.A.

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